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SUPPORT

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Other entities and programmes

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical cooperation activities provides an overview of the work of organizational entities (other than that of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat) which engage in technical cooperation activities. The overview, provided by the regional commissions, the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme, covers activities undertaken by these entities in 1990.

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I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continued to carry out a programme of technical cooperation aimed at furthering the economic and social development of the countries of the region.

2. In 1990, resources from the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation supported the services of regional advisers, assisted the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and financed regional and subregional activities in economic cooperation, public administration and finance, social development, statistics, transport and communications, tourism, energy and administrative and common services. In addition, training seminars were organized in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, financed by non-convertible currency.

3. As in previous years, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to be the main source of funds for technical cooperation activities through the financing of subregional and regional projects. UNDP increased its contribution slightly, from about \$10.6 million in 1989 to \$10.7 million in 1990.

4. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) allotted \$4.7 million during 1990 to support regional population projects executed by ECA.

5. In addition, under the terms of an associated agency status, UNFPA provided \$172,400 through the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD) of the United Nations Secretariat to enable ECA to carry out activities relating to the intercensus training programme for sub-Saharan African countries.

6. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Activities (UNTFADA) provided about \$762,500 for activities in agriculture, industry, economic integration, natural resources and human development.

7. Bilateral donors and Governments provided, by way of trust funds or cash grants, contributions totalling about \$1.6 million in support of activities dealing with the promotion of small-scale industries, computer networking, science and technology, women's productive activity, inventory and assessment of industry minerals and telecommunications. These contributions also financed the services of bilateral experts.

II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

8. As a focal point for economic activities within the region, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued to execute a number of operational projects in 1990, with the financial support of UNDP and UNFPA, in the sectors of environmental protection, energy, population, science and technology and transport.

9. These projects included: Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning; Development of Integrated Farm Energy Systems; Environmental Management with Emphasis on Air Pollution Control; development of

planned outputs and organization of the outreach activities of the second phase of the Statistical Computing Programme (SCP); and preparations for the organization of an interregional workshop on the development of computerized information systems for developing countries.

10. Further progress was made in 1990 in establishing the technical parameters for the planning, design and construction of the Trans-European North-South Motorway and in implementing the new Trans-European North-South Railway Lines project.

11. Discussions continued between ECE and UNDP on the primary objectives of a revised transport development project in the Mediterranean region. The principal objectives of this ECE/UNDP project are the development and facilitation of multimodal transport through the improvement of transport interface, particularly in ports; the establishment of an electronic data interchange (EDI) system in the region; and the development of adequate administrative infrastructure and transport facilities along the main transport routes.

12. ECE and UNDP are also exploring the possibility of a project to create a data bank as support for traffic flow analyses and forecasting in Europe. This work is being done in connection with an ongoing study on the assessment of transport infrastructure needs in central and eastern Europe being carried out by European Economic Community (EEC) in close cooperation with ECE.

13. The Economic and Social Council has called upon the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to identify a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions. Accordingly, in 1989, the executive secretaries selected trade facilitation as a priority area for their common project. At its second regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1989/118 of 28 July 1989, which, inter alia, invited the regional commissions

"to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within existing resources, a draft proposal for interregional cooperation based on projects detailing technical and resource requirements, duly taking into account the national laws and regulations and the needs and concerns of the various regions, especially those of the developing countries, in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of EDIFACT [Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport], wherever appropriate ..."

14. The draft proposal was presented to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, and adopted by the Council in its resolution 1990/74 of 27 July 1990, by which it decided to support fully the implementation by participating African States of the above-mentioned draft proposal for interregional cooperation.

15. In 1990, ECE continued its cooperation with UNFPA in the population field, which focused on continued implementation of three projects funded by UNFPA.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

16. During 1990, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continued to carry out numerous activities directly related to the provision of technical cooperation to the countries of the region. The operational framework encompassing all these activities was the ECLAC programme of work as approved by member countries at the twenty-third session of the Commission (Caracas, May 1990). Technical assistance during 1990 was focused on policy oriented proposals to strengthen the performance of public sector development agencies and the linkages of the latter with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the context of the new role of the State in the promotion of national development.

17. In that context, the ECLAC system, comprised of the ECLAC secretariat, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), carried out 132 technical assistance missions, in close coordination with governmental authorities and the corresponding office of the UNDP resident coordinator. In the field of socio-economic planning and policy coordination, ILPES also organized international and national training courses with a total attendance of 425 professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean. ILPES also awarded 37 full fellowships funded mainly by Italy.

18. As in the previous year, CELADE supported 39 fellows in population and development from 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Funding for these activities came from extrabudgetary contributions from UNFPA and Canada.

19. Special mention should be made of the continuing role played by the various subregional offices of ECLAC. The subregional office in Mexico City continued to support institutional cooperation with the key agents of the integration process in Central America and devoted a special effort to the preparation, negotiation and implementation of a programme for the economic recovery of the countries of the subregion. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Caribbean community and carried out its backstopping function as technical secretariat of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The Montevideo office carried out similar technical backstopping tasks with the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) which has its headquarters in that city. The Buenos Aires office continued to support the recent integration initiatives of Brazil and Argentina.

20. The ECLAC system at large continued to collaborate with the secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) in several spheres of common concern.

21. To carry out the technical cooperation activities summarized above, ECLAC was able to benefit from contributions from UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNFPA. Joint divisions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) should also be mentioned in this respect. Voluntary contributions continued to be received from donor countries.

IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

22. During 1990, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) received substantial contributions from UNDP and UNFPA for technical cooperation activities. Significant voluntary contributions were also received from traditional donor countries to implement activities of common concern and within the framework of the ESCAP work programme.

23. The technical cooperation activities of ESCAP continued to be concentrated on the least developed countries (LDCs) and the island developing countries in the Pacific. It rendered technical and advisory services to 27 countries in the Asia and Pacific region. Five regional advisers under UNFPA provided services to 24 countries on population statistics, population policies and population and development. For the island developing countries in the Pacific, short-term advisory services continued to be provided by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) at Port Vila, Vanuatu, in social development, development economics and finance, physical planning and port development. In addition, with UNDP financing and in collaboration with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation (SPEC), EPOC also dispatched quick action consultancy missions to island developing countries. Advisory services on energy statistics, microcomputer applications, trade promotion and tourism and women in development were rendered by advisers at ESCAP.

24. Technical cooperation projects funded by UNDP and bilateral donors were carried out in poverty alleviation; environmentally sound and sustainable development; human resources development; integration of women in development; energy and natural resources, including energy planning, new and renewable sources of energy, remote sensing and its applications; and transport and communications, including port development, inland water transport, highways and rural road infrastructure and railways.

25. UNFPA continued its institutional support for ESCAP, enabling it further to enhance its technical assistance and training for the development of national population centres in the region.

26. ESCAP continued to cooperate closely with FAO in research and development of food legumes and coarse grains in the Asian tropics and subtropics and with FAO and UNIDO in activities within the framework of the project for the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. It also cooperated with DTCD, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and FAO in regional remote sensing programmes for satellite crop monitoring and in the promotion of non-farm employment and income among rural workers in Asia.

27. With contributions from bilateral donors to the supplementary fund of the ESCAP/Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries, ESCAP promoted 31 TCDC activities jointly with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in agriculture, industry, trade, natural resources development, social development, science and technology and environmental management.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

28. In 1990, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued its technical cooperation activities in the region. These included monitoring and substantive support of projects undertaken by ESCWA as an executing and/or associated agency, and short-term regional advisory services in a number of areas.

29. In industrial development, ESCWA advised Jordan in the setting-up of an organizational structure for industrial development, including the relevant laws and by-laws, and the development of small- and medium-scale industries. Also, UNIDO funded regional advisory services to Bahrain (industry and mechanical engineering); Jordan (industrial strategy and policy); Egypt (diesel engineering); and Yemen (the cement and metalworks industries). It also helped in preparations for an expert group meeting on industrial programmes for LDCs, and in the assessment of physical and institutional requirements for establishing a free zone in Aden and San'a.

30. In agriculture, services were extended to Jordan and Oman. Advice was also provided to Oman and Yemen on water resources and sea water intrusion projects.

31. In human resources development, assistance was extended to Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Other assistance relating to the preparation of a study on a framework for increasing labour productivity in the Gulf region was extended to the Follow-Up Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Arab Gulf Countries.

32. In national accounts and economic statistics, assistance was extended to Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen. UNFPA funded regional advisory services in demography for Bahrain, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as in population statistics for Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) received help in data processing.

33. In science and technology, assistance was extended to Kuwait and Yemen. In the energy field, advisory services were extended to Egypt and Oman on biogas technology. Oman also received help in assessing studies pertaining to alternative energy sources. In transport and communications, assistance was given to Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

34. Advisory services relating to the environment were given to Jordan to study the scope of work and to set up a programme for a project to strengthen management capabilities in environment and planning. In Oman, the Ministry of Planning received help in designing a training course in urban development.

35. ESCWA continued to execute or to be an associated agency for a number of national and regional projects funded by TCDC, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other resources in the fields of statistics, the role of women in development and various industrial projects.

VI. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

36. The Secretary-General of the United Nations ensures close coordination between the activities of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, financed under the regular budget of the United Nations, and those financed under the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, which became operational in 1988. By the end of October 1990, contributions to the fund totalled more than \$2 million.

37. In the light of the expansion of technical cooperation activities financed under the Voluntary Fund, and in order to assist the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights in dealing with requests submitted by Governments for technical assistance, the Centre set up an advisory group in 1989. In addition, guidelines based on the standard procedures developed by UNDP for project formulation, implementation, evaluation and reporting were elaborated by the Centre in 1990.

38. Activities organized by the Centre for Human Rights throughout 1990 and financed under the regular budget of the United Nations for the programme of advisory services and technical assistance included a European workshop on International Standards in the Field of Human Rights; an International Seminar on Political, Historical, Social and Cultural Factors contributing to Racism, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid; a National Workshop on the Rights of the Child and the World Congress on Human Rights; the annual fellowship programme; the advisory mission of the independent expert to Guatemala of the Commission for Human Rights; and the provision of services to Equatorial Guinea.

39. A field mission was organized for the independent expert on Guatemala to examine the human rights situation in that country, and, in cooperation with the Government of Spain, the Centre for Human Rights provided two experts to assist Equatorial Guinea in carrying out tasks related to the codification of various laws to ensure the protection of its citizens.

40. Training courses and workshops financed under the Voluntary Fund took place in Paraguay, the Philippines and Uruguay. Fellowships were awarded to 29 applicants.

41. The services of 10 experts were provided for specific cooperation projects financed under the Voluntary Fund to Colombia, the Gambia, Guacemala, Guinea, Hungary, Paraguay, Romania and Tunisia, and to the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

42. A number of supportive activities were also carried out under the regular budget of the United Nations, such as the publication of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in the official languages of the United Nations, to assist the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights in promoting its aims. The services of 10 experts were also provided under the regular budget to participate in the seminar on the work of the African Commission, organized by the Association sénégalaise d'études et de recherches juridiques. Assistance was also provided to the Government of Mongolia for ad hoc consultations with human rights experts on constitutional reform.

VII. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

43. National development plans and strategies for the 1990s reflect increased concern at the policy level that development must be inclusive of all sectors of the population and promote opportunities for all to participate both as agents and beneficiaries. A second set of factors influencing technical cooperation has been: (a) a growing reliance on market mechanisms as the organizing principle of socio-economic activity; (b) changes in the role of government in pursuing social development objectives; and (c) greater demand for participation by citizens in decisions on strategies and measures that affect their well-being. As a nucleus for social policy and development, the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) gave special emphasis to integrating social policies and goals into overall development strategies and programmes, including structural adjustment measures, and to providing substantive support of human oriented development cooperation activities. Support was provided from the resources of the trust funds administered by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) of UNOV for catalytic and innovative action of benefit to specific population groups. Increased recognition of the contribution which national machinery can make to further the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women ^{1/} led to the provision of three types of advisory services and assistance, focusing on more effective integration of women in development; specific topics such as the interrelationship between women in development and population; and the exchange of technical information.

44. Cooperation with UNDP included provision of direct advisory services and substantive support to ongoing programmes and projects. This cooperation included three missions to Peru by the Director-General of UNOV, as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to advise on socio-economic policy options and on reintegration of the country into the international development finance system. As cooperating agency for Bolivia's UNDP-financed Human Development project, UNOV assisted the Government in strengthening its planning procedures in priority areas of social concern, among them the design of a labour-intensive capital formation programme to increase productivity in the poorest regions. A draft entitled "Programme Advisory Note on Social Policy and Development" was prepared to reinforce the treatment of social issues in the analysis and planning of pre-investment assistance. As a member of the Steering Committee for the UNDP/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) programme on the social dimensions of adjustment (SDA), UNOV also participated in advisory missions to countries in Africa.

45. During 1990, trust funds administered by UNOV/CSDHA in the fields of ageing, disabled persons and youth provided grants in excess of \$400,000 to 32 catalytic and innovative projects of developing countries. Although grants generally were modest, they had an important multiplier effect in terms of mobilizing additional resources. The grants have moreover served to empower specific groups of the population to participate as development agents and beneficiaries, to promote and disseminate new technologies and to establish and develop networks of organizations. Despite a solid record of achievement and the need for increased support of such field level action, contributions to the funds have dropped, and their operational reserves are nearly depleted.

46. Responding to the critical social and economic situation of developing countries, particularly in Africa, which has further strained already limited United Nations resources for assistance in the social field, UNOV/CSDHA sought to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from Governments and from the private sector. The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) continued to be the single largest source of funds for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Government of Germany provided generous earmarked grants for ageing and for development activities in Africa and Asia. The non-governmental community also remained an important source of support, particularly in regard to ageing and disability.

47. The Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat continued to expand its work programme, including the distribution of information and training material, advisory and training services and programme support to field projects. On 11 November 1990, the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances came into force (E/CONF.82/15 and corrigenda). A special campaign was launched to encourage adherence to the Convention, and States were offered help in meeting its requirements. Expert Group meetings were organized, as well as four regional meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies. Basic and advanced training was given in the analysis of drugs of abuse and in laboratory techniques for forensic toxicology, relying where appropriate on regional training centres. Seven national laboratories were established in African countries and more than 500 field identification kits and other material were sent to 32 countries.

48. The activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) also continued to expand. The Fund provided financial and technical assistance to 67 countries through 108 national projects. At the regional and global levels, 41 UNFDAC projects implemented by other agencies and NGOs undertook a wide range of drug control activities such as training, advisory services, research, information exchange, conferences and the like. UNFDAC activities included preventive education and public awareness projects to stimulate anti-drug attitudes; integrated rural development projects to develop income substitution activities; assistance in the control of illicit trafficking; and support of initiatives relating to treatment of addicts. At its seventeenth special session, the General Assembly adopted resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, containing, *inter alia*, a Global Programme of Action which gave UNFDAC a special mandate to develop a subregional strategy, covering all aspects of drug abuse control. Some priority areas have already been identified.

VIII. OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

49. The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat advises and assists United Nations bodies and units at Headquarters and in the field, including DTCD, UNDP and the related funds and offices on matters pertaining to the establishment, application and interpretation of legal rules relating to cooperation programmes. The work, which is of a continuing nature, includes drafting and interpreting constitutive instruments, terms of reference as well as financial and other regulations, rules and directives of United Nations bodies;

drafting, interpreting and advising on basic assistance agreements, loan agreements, project documents, trust fund arrangements, cost-sharing agreements, and management services agreements with Governments, intergovernmental organizations and executing agencies; provision of legal advice and assistance in negotiating and settling legal disputes; and advising on operational questions (administrative, personnel, financial and contractual), as well as problems involving United Nations privileges and immunities.

50. The Office of Legal Affairs also performs various functions connected with the goals of the United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The Office received and assigned interns to participate in activities related to some of its projects, at no financial cost to the United Nations. It participated in the United Nations/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Fellowship Programme in international law, financed from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions from States. Seventeen fellowships were awarded in 1990. The Office also cooperated in programmes of training and assistance sponsored by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and participated with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea in activities connected with the award of the fifth Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which is financed from a trust fund of voluntary contributions.

IX. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)

51. The operational activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) are primarily focused on assisting Governments in the formulation of policy and strategy to create and strengthen self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. Capacity building is focused on expertise to assess the constraints and opportunities of human settlements development, the identification and analysis of policy options, the design and management of interventions, and the mobilization of national resources, as well as external support to increase the impact of investments for the upgrading of human settlements conditions. This national capacity building process includes not only public sector institutions, but also other levels of organizations such as community organizations, NGO's, universities and national research institutions. Increasingly, emphasis is also being placed on the greater use of information technologies in strengthening government data management and analytical capacities in human settlements management.

52. During 1990, UNCHS had 271 technical cooperation programmes and projects under execution in 102 countries, of which 85 were in LDCs. As a direct response to rapidly increasing demands from developing country governments, the technical cooperation activities of UNCHS have grown over the last six years, from 163 projects with current year budgets totalling \$15.5 million in 1985, to the 1990 programme level of 271 projects with current year budgets totalling over \$38 million (as at the end of the third quarter of 1990). Almost 65 per cent of the financing for these technical cooperation projects in 1990 came from various sources of UNDP funds; 18 per cent was government and third party cost sharing;

11 per cent was funds-in-trust; and 6 per cent came from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (mainly for preparatory assistance to help mobilize other sources of financing).

53. UNCHS is fully committed to the goals of maximizing the use of national expertise and to supporting both government execution and procurement from developing countries. Accordingly, during 1989, 60 per cent of UNCHS project personnel were national experts and consultants; in 1990, this figure increased to 66 per cent. Likewise, in an increasing number of cases UNCHS has been serving as an associated agency in support of government-executed projects. Moreover, according to the latest available official statistics on the operational activities of the United Nations system, 63.05 per cent of the total procurement of UNCHS for 1989 was from developing countries (A/45/273/Add.4-E/1990/Add.4, annex, appendix II, p. 33).

54. UNCHS has taken the lead, shifting from a project to a programme approach both at the country level (e.g., in Colombia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Viet Nam), and in the development of global and interregional, multisectoral support programmes with a number of bilateral and multilateral partners.

55. Working with UNDP sectoral support funds and extrabudgetary resources, UNCHS initiated in 1989 a programme to support national Human Settlements Sector Analysis and Needs Assessment Missions. Under this programme, multidisciplinary teams of national and international experts are mobilized to identify the most important trends in the human settlements sector, analyse those trends in relation to national development priorities, analyse current and planned investment programmes related to human settlements; and identify gaps in resources and implementation. During 1990, missions were undertaken in Angola, Bhutan, Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, Namibia, the Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo.

56. The Urban Management Programme (UMP), which is executed jointly by the World Bank and UNCHS, with funding from UNDP and a large number of bilateral donors, was the first concerted, multilateral effort to help developing countries by improving urban management and thus strengthening the contribution of cities and towns to economic growth, social development and the alleviation of poverty. The programme is focused on developing and promoting appropriate policies and tools for land management, infrastructure management, municipal finance and administration and the urban environment. The work programme for Phase II of UMP is entitled Capacity Building for Urban Management in the 1990s and is focused on establishing partnerships with national, regional and global networks in applied research and on the dissemination of information relating to successful experiences and promising options.

57. The Sustainable Cities Programme is a new global support programme which grew out of the collaboration between UNCHS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the development of Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management. 2/ This programme has been designed to support a highly participatory process to identify environmental issues at the city level, to establish priorities and to provide tools to address these issues. The principal goal of the programme

is to provide cities with an improved environmental management capacity which will be self-sustaining once the programme's support ends and which will facilitate a better understanding of the costs and benefits involved in environmental management and of the economic cost of environmental neglect.

X. UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

58. During the period under review, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) continued to provide technical assistance to the new "free market" economies in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition to traditional advisory services, the primary thrusts of the Centre's assistance to these countries in 1990 were specific promotional strategies to attract foreign investment and technology in sectors particularly targeted by the Government for development. In 1990, the Centre strengthened its technical assistance programme in Central and Eastern Europe to support the efforts of those countries in the transformation of their centrally planned economies to market economies. The year was also highlighted by the approval by participating Governments of a major economic integration charter on multinational industrial enterprises ventures. The Centre has played a crucial role in drafting and negotiating the agreement. Increased efforts were made to apply a programme approach to its technical assistance programme which provides requesting Governments with comprehensive strategies for advisory and training services.

59. In 1990, the Centre completed or initiated 103 advisory and informational services. With the influx of requests from new "free market" economies, projects relating to general issues on investments and technology increased in 1990 to 34, essentially relating to petroleum, finance and banking. Other projects dealt with tourism, technology transfer, the environmental impact of investment projects, fisheries and privatization.

60. The Centre organized 34 training activities in 1990, consisting of workshops, training assistance to institutions of higher learning and study tours and fellowships. One interregional workshop was held on negotiations in the mining and construction sectors. The rest of the workshops dealt with finance and bank issues. Four workshops were organized as part of the entrepreneurship programme which has now been introduced in two African countries.

61. Training services to assist institutions of higher learning were held in Africa. One of the seminars, although held in Africa, was organized for participating institutions in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to training in the three disciplines of business, economics and law, the interregional convening of professors and deans was intended to share in the benefits and experiences of the programme in Asia and the Pacific to facilitate the establishment of the programme in other regions.

62. Fellowships and study tours were organized as part of the Centre's comprehensive training assistance programme, for officials from Angola, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Thailand and Zimbabwe. Visits were made to Asian countries with a view to sharing experiences of local counterparts in such areas as foreign investment,

institutional arrangements, guidelines and procedures and the monitoring of technology transfer agreements. A study tour was conducted in the United States of America on investment promotion and a fellowship was granted at a United States institution on investment appraisal techniques.

XI. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

63. Expenditures of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on technical cooperation reached a record level in 1990, estimated at \$22 million.

64. These activities were funded mainly by UNDP, the remainder being from funds-in-trust. Although all regions are covered by the UNCTAD technical cooperation programme, particular attention is paid to the needs of Africa and LDCs. Africa accounted for more than 40 per cent of total expenditures in 1990.

65. UNCTAD technical cooperation seeks to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to formulate and implement national and international policies, measures and instruments for the development of international trade, to promote improved functioning of the international economic system in support of national development and to enhance economic cooperation among developing countries.

66. In the field of trade, the joint UNDP/UNCTAD programme of four interrelated regional and interregional projects aimed at facilitating the full participation of developing countries in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was very active in 1990. The UNCTAD/World Bank software for market access and restrictions on trade (SMART) was widely disseminated. National studies have been undertaken on the role of services in the economy and in trade.

67. Through interregional and national activities, UNCTAD has assisted countries on various aspects of trade policies. Assistance in the operation of generalized systems of preferences (GSP) schemes continued in 1990.

68. Technical cooperation activities were also pursued in the areas of transfer of technology and control of restrictive business practices, in particular through the holding of seminars. Activities relating to trade between developing countries and countries of Eastern Europe were also carried out.

69. UNCTAD assisted the work of the Secretary-General's Expert Group on Africa's Commodity Problems, which published its report in 1990 (A/45/581). Developing countries continued to receive assistance in improving the management of their food imports. UNCTAD cooperated with several subregional groupings that are attempting to revitalize their integration process, in association with regional commissions of the United Nations, particularly ECA. The UNCTAD trade facilitation programme, whose main feature is the installation of the Automated System of Customs Data (ASYCUDA) - a computer-based system for processing customs documentation - continued to expand in 1990. A new programme of training and human resource development in the field of foreign trade (TRAINFORTRADE) was launched towards the end of 1990.

70. In the field of financial resources, cooperation has continued in the area of debt management. Since 1981, over 20 developing countries have benefited from the use of the UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS). Technical assistance and training in the field of insurance were provided under several national and regional projects. A major interregional seminar on training and human resource development in the field of insurance was held at Lisbon. With the support of UNDP, assistance was provided to LDC's to facilitate their preparation for and participation in the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990 (A/45/695).

71. One of the main features of the UNCTAD technical cooperation programme has traditionally been in the areas of maritime and multimodal transport, including the management of ports and improvement of the transport chain. Three large projects in Africa, focusing on the transit and transport problems of land-locked countries, were in operation in 1990.

72. Other activities dealing with various aspects of transport included the continued development of the TRAINMAR network, the development of shipping services in developing countries, improved management of ports and assistance in preparing maritime legislation.

XII. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

73. For the biennium 1990-1991, the allocation of the environmental fund of the technical cooperation programme was \$7.2 million, of which \$3.7 million was allocated in 1990. UNEP provided institutional support to several Governments, and provided services and fellowships to developing countries through its regional offices.

74. The Cairo Programme for African Cooperation on Environment and Eco-development (E/C.7/1987/6) was adopted at the UNEP First African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) (Cairo, 16 to 18 December 1985). The Cairo Programme called for the establishment or strengthening of eight regional networks made up of national institutions concerned with monitoring the environment, climatology, soils and fertilizers, water resources, energy, education and training, genetic resources and science and technology. Further, the Conference decided to establish four committees to deal with the main areas of environmental concern that coincide with the major African ecosystems. The fifth meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN held at Dakar in 1990, requested UNEP to continue providing staff for the committee secretariats until the fourth session of AMCEN, to be held in 1991, at which the future role of the committees will be determined and a decision taken on the AMCEN Trust Fund.

75. The UNEP seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (Port-of-Spain, 22-23 October 1990) approved an action plan for the environment and requested UNEP to support the initial costs of coordinating the plan (1991-1993) by financing the secretariat within the UNEP regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

76. The international environmental information system, INFOTERRA, continued to promote national information infrastructure through the establishment of national INFOTERRA focal points in participating countries. A major priority in the work of INFOTERRA during 1990 was increased provision of substantive information. One new regional service centre was established, resulting in a total of 10; the number of special sectoral sources remained at 28. Three countries joined the INFOTERRA network bringing the total to 138. During 1990, over 18,000 inquiries from some 90 countries made use of the information services provided by INFOTERRA.

77. UNEP provides assistance to interested Governments for the formulation of national plans and programmes for combating desertification and for the establishment of networks as a mechanism for mobilizing regional and subregional actions for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. ^{3/} Through the UNDP/UNEP joint venture, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) receives institutional and programme support of \$2 million per year, as the arm of the United Nations responsible for the implementation of the Plan of Action on behalf of UNEP in Sudano-Sahelian countries. By the end of 1990, the UNSO-supported programme of desertification control consisted of some 67 ongoing projects with a total funding of over \$100 million.

78. The computerized central files of the International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) was expanded to include a larger number of chemicals. Data profiles now exist for around 700 chemicals of international concern. Priorities for further development are based on the needs identified in relation to the implementation of the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. The network now includes 121 national correspondents from 112 countries. Queries on 765 chemicals from over 80 countries and organizations were answered by IRPTC in 1990.

79. Transfer of technical information by the Industry and Environment Office (IEO) of UNEP is complementary to that carried out by INFOTERRA and IRPTC. Around 800 queries on technical and environmental matters were handled.

80. During 1990, UNEP clearing-house activities were primarily focused on assisting developing countries in their efforts to assess, monitor and manage environmental problems in accordance with their national objectives and priorities.

81. Continued focus was also given to strengthening the organizational, administrative, legislative and planning infrastructure which can enable countries to address their own environmental problems. With funds from Finland, Germany and Sweden, experts in different technical fields were sent to eight developing countries (Burundi, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda and Viet Nam). In 1990, Finland supported programmes ranging from the promotion of water quality control and the formulation of national soils policies to the preparation of training workshops on hazardous waste management. Other clearing-house activities included climate impact assessment in Viet Nam and the preparation of a training manual for use in the hazardous training workshops. UNEP is also cooperating through the clearing-house with the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND). Activities with AGFUND support have been or are being undertaken in Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Peru, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A. See also General Assembly resolution 43/101 of 8 December 1988.

2/ Nairobi, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, 1987, vols. I-III.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36).
